

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 071332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. TROUBLE IN MAURITANIA

EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT REPORTS THAT MAURITANIANS ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE STAYING POWER AND THE EXPANDING MILITARY MIGHT OF THE ALGERIAN-BACKED POLISARIO FRONT. RECENT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL SCANDALS AND REPORTS OF MILITARY DISCONTENT ADD TO MAURITANIA'S WOES, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE REGIME MAY BE HEADING FOR SERIOUS TROUBLE.

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AS AN INDICATION OF THIS, POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS MAURITANIANS FOR THE FIRST TIME ARE OPENLY CRITICIZING PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH, SUGGESTING THAT HE IS BEYOND LEARNING HOW TO COPE WITH THE NATION'S ECONOMIC AND MILITARY PROBLEMS. (SECRET) NOUAKCHOTT 642, 3/29.)

2. IZMIR: CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE FIRED UPON

UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS IN A MOVING CAR FIRED AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON AT THE US CONSUL GENERAL'S RESIDENCE IN IZMIR ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 29. THE SHOTS CAUSED NO PERSONAL INJURIES. AN UNEXPLODED PIPE BOMB WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE STREET OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE.

OUR CONSULATE GENERAL CONCURS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE THAT THE ASSAULT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN, BUT PART OF A LEFTIST CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE DESIGNED TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH OF TERRORIST MAHIR CAYAN (CAYAN WAS KILLED BY POLICE IN ISTANBUL EXACTLY SIX YEARS AGO). THE LOCAL POLICE, AWARE THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER WAS A GUEST THE PREVIOUS NIGHT, HAVE DISPLAYED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE ATTACK AND HAVE POSTED EXTRA GUARDS AT THE RESIDENCE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) IZMIR 88, 3/30.) CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE071332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: SCHUMAKER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770110-0543
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977031/aaaaaawp.tel
Line Count: 79
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Litigation History:
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Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2933240
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX
To: NSA JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ab8d07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009